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Senate Foils Bid to Kill Arm Pact

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WASHINGTON, Jan. 22 — A motion urging President Carter to withdraw the nuclear arms treaty with the Soviet Union from the Senate was blocked today as Congress convened in a somber mood.

The Senate later in the day began to debate a resolution that would approve extending most-favored-nation trade status to China, with a favorable vote expected later in the week. The House of Representative was forced to delay consideration of the China trade question when a Republican member, Robert H. Michel of Illinois, blocked it with a point of order.

As had been expected, the new session began with a chorus of denunciations of the Soviet Union for its military intervention in Afghanistan. Several motions were made to boycott the Olympic Games in Moscow, and Senator Lowell P. Weicker Jr., Republican of Connecticut,

proposed a total embargo on trade with the Soviet Union.

Senator Robert C. Byrd of West Virginia, the majority leader, warned, however, against "unthinking, spasmodic policy shifts" and said a "return to the cold war" is neither desirable or possible.

Soon after the Senate convened at noon, Senator John Tower, Republican of Texas, unexpectedly moved that Senate emissaries call on the President and ask him to withdraw the strategic arms treaty from the Senate calendar.

Senator Byrd made a motion to kill Senator Tower's proposal and Mr. Byrd's proposal was passed 50 votes to 36.

The opening round of debate on China trade showed that there was strong bipartisan support for resolutions in both houses that would extend the favored trade status to China.